

Jo Ann Russ
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January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20530-0001

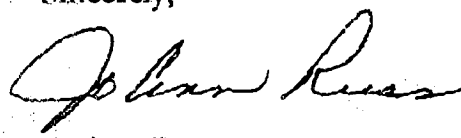
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

It has come to my attention that a settlement has been reached in the Justice Department's three-year antitrust case against Microsoft. I want you to know that I support the settlement, since the terms are fair and reasonable to all parties involved. As a North Carolina resident, I've seen enough of these proceedings at the state and federal level for one lifetime.

Microsoft will be making a number of specific changes to its business practices that will restore fair competition and prevent future antitrust violations. For instance, Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose its Windows internal interfaces that its competitors might be able to use to write better programs.

Furthermore, the government will establish a "technical committee" to monitor Microsoft's compliance with the settlement, and to act as a mediator for disputes about the settlement. Please accept the settlement, for the reasons I have already given you. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jo Ann Russ